

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRIDGE 01291 242027Z

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 AID-05 IO-10 NSC-05 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 SAB-01 L-03 SP-02 /059 W

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R 241713Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9273

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRIDGETOWN 1291

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR BB GJ XL

SUBJ: THIRD-COUNTRY ISSUES

REF: STATE 172095

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS FROM AMBASSADOR BRITTON

1. AS YOU ARE AWARE, THIS EMBASSY SERVES NOT ONLY BARBADOS BUT ALSO NEWLY INDEPENDENT STATE OF GRENADA AND FIVE WEST INDIES ASSOCIATED STATES, WHICH, EVEN THOUGH THEY ARE NOT SOVEREIGN AND GREAT BRITAIN HAS GENERAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THEIR EXTERNAL RELATIONS, ARE OFTEN REPRESENTED AT INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES IN THE CARIBBEAN AND SOMETIMES CARRY OUT INITIATIVES OF THEIR OWN IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS FIELD.

2. GOG HAS HAD SERIOUS FINANCIAL PROBLEMS EVER SINCE BIRTH OF GRENADA IN FEB 1974 AND THESE HAVE NOT ONLY INHIBITED IT FROM PLAYING AS ACTIVE A ROLE IN INTERNATIONAL FORA AS IT MIGHT WISH BUT CAUSED IT TO TAKE SUCH ABERRANT STEPS AS ESTABLISHING DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA (PRESUMABLY IN THE HOPE OF GETTING AID). MOREOVER, FREQUENT REORGANIZATION OF THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND ILL-DEFINED LINES OF AUTHORITY HAVE GIVEN RISE TO CONSIDERABLE FREE-WHEELING ON PART OF GRENADIAN REPRESENTATIVES AT UN AND OAS. NEVERTHELESS, GOG CAN USUALLY BE COUNTED ON TO SUPPORT US POSITIONS, AND, IF THIS SITUATION SHOULD CHANGE, IT WOULD NOT BE BECAUSE OF THIRD-COUNTRY ISSUES BUT, RATHER, BECAUSE OF FRUSTRATION OVER  
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PAGE 02 BRIDGE 01291 242027Z

LACK OF US AID.

3. AT PRESENT TIME, U.S. RELATIONS WITH ASSOCIATED STATES ARE ESSENTIALLY UNAFFECTED BY THIRD-COUNTRY ISSUES. GOVERNMENTS THOSE STATES WOULD NATURALLY BE DISPOSED TO SIDE WITH CUBA, PANAMA, VENEZUELA AND ECUADOR ON ISSUES CITED REFTEL, BUT PROBLEMS CLOSER TO HOME PREOCCUPY THEIR ATTENTION.

4. IN GENERAL, IT SEEMS FAIR TO SAY THAT USG-GOB RELATIONS ARE ONLY marginally affected by third country issues. GOB MAY CRITICIZE USG FOR FAILING TAKE THE LEAD IN LIFTING OAS SANCTIONS AGAINST CUBA OR FOR NOT BRINGING PRESSURE TO BEAR ON GUATEMALA TO SECURE INDEPENDENCE OF BELIZE, FOR EXAMPLE, BUT SUCH CRITICISM IS NOT LIKELY AFFECT OVERALL PATTERN OF BILATERAL RELATIONS. NEVERTHELESS, IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT GOB IS SHOWING INCREASING RELUCTANCE TO BECOME INVOLVED IN ISSUES HAVING TO DO WITH COUNTRIES OR SITUATIONS OUTSIDE WESTERN HEMISPHERE, AND THAT ATTEMPT TO LEAN ON IT TOO HEAVILY FOR SUPPORT FOR US POSITIONS WITH RESPECT TO SUCH ISSUES COULD BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE.

5. REGARDING FIVE ISSUES CITED REFTEL, GOB POSITIONS BASICALLY ARE AS FOLLOWS:

1) DISMANTLING OF OAS SANCTIONS LONG OVERDUE; (2) CUBA SHOULD BE ACCEPTED AS FULL MEMBER OF HEMISPHERE FAMILY; (3) PRESENT CANAL TREATY IS UNJUST AND PANAMANIAN SOVEREIGNTY OVER ZONE SHOULD BE RESTORED; (4) ANY BREAKDOWN IN NEGOTIATIONS IS REGRETTABLE; AND (5) EXCLUSION OF VENEZUELA AND ECUADOR FROM GSP IN TRA SHOULD BE REMOVED ASAP. WHILE GOB POSITIONS ON ALL FIVE ISSUES ARE FIRM, GOB WILL NOT TAKE UP CUDGELS ON BEHALF OF CUBA, PANAMA, VENEZUELA OR ECUADOR, AND DIFFERENCES ON THESE ISSUES WILL NOT LEAD TO DETERIORATION OF BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP UNLESS GOB BELIEVES USG DEALING IN BAD FAITH WITH THIRD COUNTRIES CONCERNED.

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## Message Attributes

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**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
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**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Subject:** THIRD-COUNTRY ISSUES  
**TAGS:** PFOR, BB, GJ, XL, US  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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